REMARKS

The Office Action of March 13, 2007 is noted in which Claim 3 is objected to as being vague, which rejection is carried forth under 35 USC 112. The claims are also rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Bowen et al. in view of the McHugh reference.

Applicants have amended Claim 3 to remove the language that has been objected to, and allowance of this claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants have also amended the independent claims in this case to recite the fact that the optics in this case are both non-movable and non-electrically tunable. As such the variable focal length is provided by variations in the curvatures of the lenses, thus to provide a non-linear variable focal length that in turn provides a distorted field characteristic.

Nowhere is this type of non-linear optics shown, taught or suggested in any of the cited references. Allowance of the claims on this basis alone is requested.

Moreover, nowhere is shown a method for rapidly acquiring and tracking a threat using a directed countermeasure system that employs a non-movable lens system or a non-electrically tunable system that has more magnification on-axis.
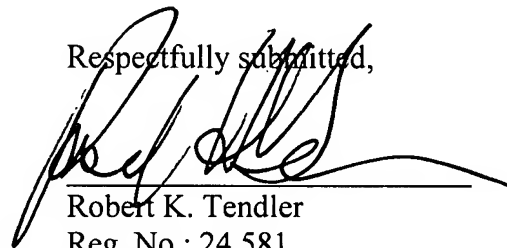
Nor would it be obvious to do so because all of the references cited teach away from the claimed "chunk of glass" system, instead teaching either movable optical elements or electrically tunable optical elements.

In short, nowhere is shown or taught having a non-linear optic system in which the magnification along the narrow field of view is greater than the magnification at the edges of the field of view.

In point of fact, in target acquisition systems taught by the cited references there is no showing that it would be desirable to use a distorted field of view system for any reason, let alone the claimed reason.

For these reasons and in view of the above Amendment, allowance of the claims and issuance of the case are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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